

hardship after the terrorist attacks. Just as we should not single out anyone of German, Russian, or Japanese descent for what some of their countrymen may have done in the past, we should not single out people like Mike and Sam for what 18 men with similar ethnic backgrounds did on one terrible day. I am pleased that the House has considered this bill, and I hope our communities will all take this lesson to heart.

HONORING ILLINOIS' NOBEL LAUREATES

(Mr. EMANUEL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to rise in honor of the Illinois Nobel Laureates. Illinois has always been well represented in this competition of the world's best and brightest, but this year three individuals from Illinois have won the Nobel Prize: Paul Lauterbur, a researcher at the University of Illinois, won for his research leading to the development of MRI technology; Alexei Abrikosov of Argonne National Laboratory; and Anthony Leggett, another researcher at the University of Illinois won for physics.

Each of these individuals works at a public institution dedicated to the exploration and expansion of human knowledge, and each of these institutions relies on public support to do the public good. These individuals and their work represent the future of our country; and if we are to maintain our status as a world leader, we must continue to support their works.

Mr. Speaker, although their work is diverse, their ability to pursue their intellectual endeavors is singular. So those who run down our public institutions, I hope they take note of these individuals' accomplishments.

Mr. Speaker, these Nobel Prize winners are from Illinois, we are proud of them, but they are national treasures.

PROTECT AMERICANS IN UNIFORM ABROAD

(Mr. KIRK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, the top priority of our foreign policy must be to protect Americans in uniform abroad. Our troops need allies to help shoulder the burden in Iraq. More allies will show the Iraqi people that the world community is strengthening its support for a new Iraqi democracy.

Yesterday, the National Assembly of Turkey voted to authorize the deployment of at least 6,000 peacekeepers to Iraq. Turkey has long been a NATO ally, even as she borders Iraq, Syria, and Iran. Her soldiers fought next to ours in far-off Korea in support of the United Nations.

Despite temporary problems, I thank Prime Minister Erdogan and Foreign Minister Gul for adding Turkey's peacekeeping troops to our mission of building a free and democratic Iraq.

OUR NATIONAL DEBT

(Mr. ALEXANDER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. Speaker, it has been 881 days since President Bush and his party embarked on their economic plan for our country. During that time, the national debt has increased by \$1,174,114,828,749.14. According to the Web site for the Bureau of Public Debt at the Treasury Department, yesterday at 4:30 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time, the Nation's outstanding debt was \$6,814,440,215,107.91. Furthermore, in fiscal year 2003, the interest on our national debt, or the debt-tax, totaled \$318,148,529,151.51.

COMMENDING AFGHAN WOMEN

(Mrs. BIGGERT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the women of Afghanistan and to encourage my colleagues to join me in expressing strong support for their inclusion in the new Afghan constitution.

Nearly 2 years after the fall of the Taliban government, Afghan women are reclaiming their rightful place in society, returning to jobs and professions they held before the Taliban. No longer do they live in fear of a brutal regime. Instead, they are working to build a new democracy.

Under the Bonn Agreement, the people in Afghanistan will have in place in the coming months a new constitution. As the drafters continue the hard work of crafting that important document, we must continue to include the women of Afghanistan in the protection of their human rights.

It is for this reason that the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MALONEY) and I introduced today a resolution commending the participation of women in Afghan government and society and advocating the protection of women's human rights under the constitution. I urge Members to support this resolution.

SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION CREATES JOBS

(Mr. ETHERIDGE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to call on this Congress to pass school construction legislation to create jobs and improve education here in America. More than 3 million workers have

lost their jobs in this sorry economy; over 2 million were in manufacturing sectors alone. My State of North Carolina has seen devastating job losses in such vital industries as textiles, furniture, and tobacco.

Congress must act now to get America working again. We should start by passing legislation to put people to work building schools. In many urban and rural areas of this country, schools are crumbling and localities lack the resources to rebuild. In many communities in my district, schools are bursting at the seams from overcrowding.

Since my first term in this body, I have worked to pass school construction. This year's version, H.R. 717, will provide \$25 billion in zero interest bonds for school construction in this country. This bill will put workers back to work building quality schools for our country.

Mr. Speaker, Congress will soon consider the President's request for \$87 billion for Iraqi reconstruction, including building new schools. The President is going to get his money, but we need to spend some money here at home on schools. So Congress should pass H.R. 717 to build schools in America.

SUPPORTING THE OATH OF ALLEGIANCE

(Mr. RYUN of Kansas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RYUN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, the Oath of Allegiance has served as the gateway to American citizenship for over 200 years. When immigrants speak its forceful words, they pledge their unfettered allegiance to America, our Constitution, and our laws.

This important symbol of American citizenship is not specified by law. However, it can be changed on the whim of a government agency. In fact, such a change was recently attempted and would have transformed an absolute commitment to our Constitution into a conditional statement, thereby weakening our citizenship. That is why I introduced H.R. 3191, which would establish the oath as Federal law.

Mr. Speaker, throughout our history, our Nation has been strengthened by immigrants who came here to pursue the American dream. Establishing the oath as the law of the land would remind all Americans that pursuing that dream also requires a full-time commitment to citizenship. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation to strengthen the meaning of our citizenship.

JUNGLE CAMOUFLAGE IN THE DESERT?

(Mr. DEFAZIO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I have heard about the sweetheart deals and

the war profiteering in the rebuilding of Iraq, the billions that are being wasted, but how are the troops doing over there on the ground? Not so well, it turns out. Thirty to 40,000 of our troops cannot get \$500 pieces of body armor. They are working with flak vests from the Vietnam era which will not stop an AK-47 bullet. We have Humvees with canvas side curtains. Some of our troops are being sent over there with jungle camouflage. We cannot afford that desert camouflage.

How is it with the buildup for months by this administration, a \$380 Pentagon budget, \$80 billion appropriated by Congress last April for this war, that the Bush administration, Secretary Rumsfeld in all of his great wisdom, could not have thought to buy our young men and women body armor, to give them armored Humvees, to get them desert fatigues, boots and sidearms that work, and other critical supplies? They said we just cannot afford it, we need more money, then maybe we will give the young men and women what they need.

Mr. Speaker, they can find that money. It is about 2 minutes' spending at the Pentagon.

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REMEMBERING A TRUE SOUTH CAROLINA HERO, SERGEANT ANTHONY O. THOMPSON

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in sadness to report the death of a true South Carolina hero, Sergeant Anthony O. Thompson. As a 26-year-old artillery fire support specialist in the United States Army, Sergeant Thompson proudly represented not only our State and Nation but all the people of South Carolina.

As a native of Orangeburg County, he showed immense potential even as a teenager. Graduating from Orangeburg-Wilkinson High School in 1995, he departed with honors and shortly thereafter entered the Army.

After serving in the Army for nearly 7 years, Sergeant Thompson began his quest in Iraq to defend our Nation from terrorists and engage in the War on Terrorism. Sergeant Anthony Thompson, killed in combat, was the second serviceman from Orangeburg County to die during service in Iraq and the seventh from the State of South Carolina.

I ask my colleagues to join me today in extending condolences to Sergeant Thompson's friends and family, as he was a dedicated hero to our State and Nation.

In conclusion, God bless our troops.

MANDATED TRAINING FOR AIRCREWS

(Mr. MICHAUD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, 10 days after terrorist attacks on September 11, the President told this body, "We will come together to improve air safety and take new measures to prevent hijacking."

Yet, 2 years later, our first line of defense in the air has been not yet upgraded. The flight attendants who were the first victims of the tragic accidents on that day and who are still called upon to defend passengers lives have not been given the new defensive training that they need.

Working together in committee, Members of both parties drafted legislation to address this shortfall and mandate proper defense training for aircrews. Four hundred eighteen Members of the House agreed.

Unfortunately, through the FAA reauthorization bill, House leadership has now removed the strong mandate and replaced it with a statement that TSA "may" provide training. This undermines our bipartisan work, it undermines the expectation clearly stated by the President, and it undermines the Nation's safety.

I urge my colleagues to work with me to change the language back. There should be no uncertainty, no delay. Mandated training for aircrews is the will of this Congress and the will of our constituents.

IN HONOR OF SPECIALIST DUSTIN K. MCGAUGH

(Mr. BOOZMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor one of America's bravest, Specialist Dustin McGaugh, who grew up in Springdale, Arkansas. Specialist McGaugh was killed in a "friendly fire" accident in Balad, Iraq, late last week.

Motivated by a desire to serve and be a part of something important, Specialist McGaugh enlisted in the Army prior to the September 11 attacks and was so intent on becoming a soldier that he completed his last 3 weeks of basic training with a broken shinbone.

Specialist McGaugh put himself in harm's way so that the world could be a better place, and he did so in a manner that was an inspiration to his fellow soldiers. While in Iraq he told his family that his unit often came under fire. However, this did not stop him from doing his mission. In fact, it seemed to have encouraged him to reach out to the Iraqi people. His fellow soldiers said that, regardless of the dangers, Specialist McGaugh could often be found handing out candy to Iraqi children.

Mr. Speaker, Specialist Dustin McGaugh made the ultimate sacrifice for his country. He is a true American hero. I ask my colleagues to keep Specialist McGaugh's family and friends in their thoughts and prayers during these difficult times.

VOTE NO ON \$87 BILLION FOR IRAQ

(Mr. McDERMOTT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I am here to do a public service announcement. I want all of you to get your rubber stamp ready. We are here for 24 hours this week, and next week, when we arrive on Wednesday, within 24 hours we will have given the President \$87 billion. That is what he wants in a failed policy. We are going to buy cell phones at \$6,000 a copy. The ones we have here cost \$1,500. Why are they \$6,000 in Iraq? Why are we spending \$100 million in a witness protection program or putting in a 911 system or all the foolishness in that bill?

There will be no talk tomorrow about amendments in the Committee on Appropriations. We ought to figure out what the President needs until December and give it to him then, and we will come back when he has a plan.

He announced today they are not going to go for a resolution in the United Nations. We are going it alone, and the American taxpayers are being asked to suck it up again, give him \$87 billion, do not ask him what he did with it, just rubber stamp it. That is wrong. Just vote no.

THE ECONOMY

(Mrs. MILLER of Michigan asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, last week we received very exciting and positive news that the Bush economic plan is working. Both business and individuals are seeing an upturn in the economy. In September, payrolls increased by 57,000 jobs, showing increased confidence on behalf of job providers. Personal income and personal spending were both up, indicating increased consumer confidence in the economy. Clearly, the tax cuts are working, and our economy is improving.

But we do have more work to do. We must pass a comprehensive energy policy to help fuel our economy. We must open more markets abroad to export our manufactured goods. We must rein in out-of-control litigation, which is a hidden tax on our economy. We must make health care more affordable for families and businesses. And, finally, we must make the Bush tax cuts permanent so that there is certainty for families and small businesses as the recovery moves forward.

We know what we have to do to further expand our economy. It is time to get the job done.

HONORING CARL D. ASHLEY

(Mr. DAVIS of Illinois asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)